# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1302
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
POLLUTION IN GANGA RIVER
SHYAMA SINGH

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Ganga more polluted than Norway`s sewers` appearing in the `Statesman` dated June 20, 2000;

(b) if so, whether a Norwegian Institute report has revealed that the Ganga is polluted than public sewers in Norway;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof`; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check pollution in the Ganga?

## Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c)The Norwegian Institute Reportindicates that a sample of treated effluent from the common effluent treatment plant set up for treating tannery effluents in Jajmau and not from the Ganga river shows a chemical oxygen demand level of 800 milligram per litre and chromium concentration of 10.9 milligram per litre. The Central Pollution Control Boardcarried out the monitoring of the Jajmau common effluent treatment plant during the months of April & June,2000 and found chemical oxygen demand concentration of 341 milligram per litre and chromium concentration of 0.15 milligram per litre in the treated effluent as against the prescribed discharge standards of chemical oxygen demand of 250 milligram per litre and total chromium of 2 milligram per litre. A recent report on the treated effluent from the common effluent treatment plant, Jajmau carried out by the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, also indicates the chromium levels of treated effluent to be 1.7 milligram per litre which is within the standard. While the monitoring report of the Central Pollution Control Board indicates that thechromium concentration in the treated effluent is within the discharge standards, the chemical oxygen demand values are violating. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to take corrective steps to ensure the compliance of effluent standards.

(d) To tackle the problem of high concentrations of chromium in the treated effluent and sludge from the common effluent treatment plant at Jajmau, it has been decided that all the large and medium tanneries will set up chromium recovery systems individually. The small tanneries will set up common chromium recovery systems collectively. In order to tackle the pollution of river Ganga from the municipal sewage, under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I which has since been completed, about 35 per cent pollutionhas been tackled. The remaining 65 per cent pollution is to be tackled under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II, which is under implementation.